



U.S. Department of Justice

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January 26, 2006

EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: William Hatchett

PONTIAC ATTORNEY PLEADS GUILTY FOR NOT PAYING TAXES TO THE IRS

William Hatchett, an attorney with the law firm of Hatchett, DeWalt & Hatchett in Pontiac, Michigan, pleaded guilty to attempting to evade and defeat the payment of his taxes, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

"This plea represents this office's strong stance against tax fraud. Our office will continue to prosecute and enforce the tax laws. We will take all appropriate action against those who willfully evade payments of their federal tax liability," United States Attorney Murphy said.

William Hatchett entered the guilty plea in United States District Court before Judge Patrick J. Duggan as the result of a December 15, 2005 information. According to court records, from 1989 through 1996, Hatchett admitted that he had an outstanding federal tax liability, but never made payment on approximately \$382,000 in federal

income and self employment taxes due and owing. He willfully tried to evade these payments by using cash and cashier's checks to impede the ability of the IRS to collect on his federal tax liabilities. Hatchett also used another person's American Express Cards for his personal expenses and had no bank accounts in his name. Hatchett used the Hatchett, DeWalt & Hatchett firm checking account to finance his personal expenses, which including tuition payments for his children's education.

Aouate said, "The law requires that each of us is responsible for filing a tax return when required, and for determining and paying the correct amount of tax. The efforts of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division are directed at taxpayers who *willfully* and *intentionally* violate this known legal duty."

A conviction of attempting to evade and defeat the payment of his taxes carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each count.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Karl Overman.